
Shaines & McEachern

Professional Association, Attorneys

March 28, 2005

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RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL
COUNSEL

Dawn Odrowski
Federal Elections Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

Re: MUR 5646

Dear Ms. Odrowski:

On behalf of John Buchalski, I am submitting the enclosed factual review of his association with the campaign of Burton Cohen.

Your recitation of the requirement that every campaign have a treasurer does not apply to Mr. Buchalski's status. He was in fact not the treasurer of the campaign but a good hearted citizen, who lent his good name to the campaign.

I hope the enclosed statement furthers your knowledge of his role.

Very truly yours,



Paul McEachern

PM:jml
Enclosure

STATEMENT OF JOHN BUCHALSKI

I have no records relating to the Cohen campaign in my possession nor have I ever possessed a single sheet of paper relating to the campaign. This statement is compiled from memory (which is appropriate for my age) and from reviewing documents presented to me by a representative of the federal government.

To the best of my recollection, I agreed to serve as the ceremonial treasurer of the Cohen campaign some time before I signed the first of three quarterly financial reports of the campaign on or about April 14, 2003.

Burton Cohen approached me at about that time. I agreed to serve as his "honorary committee treasurer" at his urging. He wanted to have a local war veteran on his committee. At first I declined because of my age and lack of knowledge, and because I am a registered Republican and hold a political philosophy which differs from Burt. However, Burt at the time, as a New Hampshire State Senator, fought for the rights of war veterans. Burt assured me the post would be in name only and that he would be responsible for any forms I would be signing as treasurer.

With that understanding I agreed to serve. I have known Burt to be trustworthy. He was the only area politician to be helpful in supporting the cause of New Hampshire veterans. I am a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The conversations with Burt took place on the phone and in my house when I signed the form agreeing to serve. I never visited his campaign headquarters nor have I ever attended a campaign meeting. I have never solicited or received a campaign donation. I have never been given any campaign materials or federal regulations. My sole involvement was to sign the three reports. My best memory is that two of them were brought to me by Burt and one by a young lady on his staff. On the occasion of being visited by the young lady, I agreed to be tape recorded with a testimonial for Burt's candidacy. Apparently, this recording didn't record properly and a man (maybe the campaign manager) visited me to obtain another recording of my voice. My total interactions with the campaign took place in my home.

The forms which I signed were not complete as I remember. The report brought to me by the young lady was blank. I called Burt who assured me that it would be completed by his people.

I never appeared anywhere on behalf of the campaign. I did not make a contribution to the campaign. I learned about the withdrawal of Burt by reading the newspaper.

On July 14, 2004, I wrote the attached letter of resignation. The reference in my letter to my "forged" signature came about by my seeing for the first time from a Portsmouth Herald newspaper

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reporter copies of quarterly reports which appear to have been signed by me but which were clearly not. I assure you I recognize my own signature.

After the report which I signed on April 14, 2003, I signed a report on July 15, 2003 and a third report on September 17, 2003.

The following reports shown to me on March 22, 2005 by a representative of the government appear to have my signature but in fact the signature on each is a forgery. I have never authorized anyone (not even my wife) to sign my name.


The forgeries appear on the following reports:

10/15/03; 12/29/03; 4/14/04; and 4/20/04

I was also shown a letter to the FEC dated December 12, 2003 with an attached report which bears a forgery of my signature.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 28, 2005


John Buchalski

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